

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Title: **Tuesday, April 3, 1990 8:00 p.m.**

Date: 90/04/03

(The Committee of Supply met at 8 p.m.)

head: **Committee of Supply**

[Mr. Schumacher in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It being 8 o'clock, the Committee of Supply will please come to order.

head: **Main Estimates 1990-91**

Culture and Multiculturalism

MR. CHAIRMAN: These estimates are to be found commencing at page 85 of the main estimates book and at page 31 of the elements book.

I would invite the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism to introduce his estimates.

MR. MAIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to be here. I was here about a year ago to go through this exercise and introduce the estimates of this department. Over the course of the past year we have had a period of growth and learning and great exchanges with the people of the province on a whole range of issues that affect our department in the areas of the performing arts and cultural development, in history and historic sites preservation, and, of course, in the area of multiculturalism. But during the past year, as you're well aware, Mr. Chairman – and members, of course, are aware – the province has been moving in an effort to balance the budget situation and continuing with our commitment to strong fiscal management. We in the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism have made some difficult choices. But the dedication to balancing the budget is certainly in evidence in our department, with our officials and certainly with the minister. Nevertheless, there is also an equal commitment to maintain and enhance where possible the quality-of-life programs that our department is so famous for not only in Alberta, not only across Canada, but also right around the world in many respects.

Mr. Chairman, the budget of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism is just a shade under \$48 million, which represents a 1 percent increase from the previous year. Because of the need to recognize the priority Albertans place on fiscal responsibility, we've carefully identified those programs that needed to be enhanced and carefully identified where we were able to effect some economies. I would like to start by discussing one of the important increases that over the course of the last year was brought to my and other members' attention. I would guess that literally hundreds of people spoke of the importance of libraries as an educational resource, as a recreational resource, as a social resource that is present in so many of our smaller communities and of course in the larger centres as well, providing much-needed enjoyment, entertainment, and education for our citizens. The libraries in the province have been the target of budget-cutting exercises over the last four or five years, but I'm pleased to report to the committee that there is an increase this year of 3 percent in overall library operating grants, matching the government's commitment to increases in municipal grants, hospital grants, and grants of that sort. The feeling

was certainly that libraries were every bit as important a resource as the others. Therefore the increase of 3 percent has been made, and the dollar amount, something a shade under half a million dollars, will accomplish that. The per capita increase will go to \$4.08, which is above what it was when the cuts began. As well, we're going to help out the smaller community libraries that have small populations by putting a floor on their grants and in many cases increasing them to either \$2,500 per library or \$5,000, depending on the population.

The commitment to libraries as a whole across the province is important because this year we were unable to do something that has had a direct impact on seven of my colleagues and one member of the opposition, and that is the Northern Lights library system, which is a planned system of libraries encompassing the northeast area of the province. Unfortunately, we were unable to allocate the dollars to this new project, in order to maintain our commitments to the existing projects and libraries. But it's our hope – and it's a commitment I made in the House a few days ago – that as soon as we can identify the new dollars in a future budget, we will commit to starting the Northern Lights library system. Our department is working very closely with the members of the interim board. We will be establishing a board. We will be offering them help in terms of personnel and what possible equipment and furnishings we can provide, and we'll be looking at applications they may make for project grants to continue some of the work they've done. It's my hope that in the near future we will be able to establish this system and continue with the commitment we've made to library systems.

The other area that, of course, is very important to our province is the preservation of our history. We have the happy circumstance of being able to do that in a very professional way and at the same time make a direct economic impact on the province and the various communities as a whole. Two new facilities are under construction now. They're in the ground. One is in the great southern constituency of Cardston. [some applause] Opportunities for applause there were taken, obviously. With the help of a large contribution from a well-known family in the area, the Remington family, and with a contribution from the town of Cardston, we are constructing the Remington Alberta Carriage Centre, which will begin its operations in the fall of '92 and will have a grand opening in the spring of '93 and will become another jewel in our necklace of growing historic sites across southern Alberta. In the north a similar circumstance: a well-known individual from Wetaskiwin, Stan Reynolds, made a large donation of artifacts and allowed us to join in partnership to develop the Reynolds-Alberta Museum, which will focus on the history of transportation and mechanization in the northern part of the province and actually right across North America. We will be opening that facility in the fall of '92. Both of these new facilities will continue to make a definite, positive impact on the economies of their towns, just as the other facilities that are under way have done in the past.

I'm sure everybody in the House and at home on TV is familiar with the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, which is in Drumheller, Alberta. Opened in 1985, approximately a \$30 million facility that is recognized globally as one of the finest, if not the finest, palaeontological museums anywhere, this facility has put Drumheller literally on the map. Roughly seven and a half million dollars worth of economic activity is generated in Drumheller and area as a direct result of the fact that that museum is there. The visitation in the coming summer of the year in which we are now nicely in is expected to be well in

excess of half a million people. Those people, as I mentioned in my remarks last year, buy a tank of gas, buy cheeseburgers, buy sweatshirts, stay in motel rooms, and have a direct economic benefit for the towns.

Everybody is familiar with the Tyrrell museum and the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump interpretive centre in Fort Macleod, but there are many others that my department operates very, very effectively. People in Fort McMurray have the Fort McMurray Oil Sands Interpretive Centre, which tells the story of the discovery of the oil sands and the development of the systems that we see in use now at Syncrude, and future plants. The centre attracts 65,000 to 70,000 people annually, it's projected, and there's going to be a net economic benefit in the area of something in excess of \$800,000 in the coming year, a direct economic benefit that is over and above the educational and historic benefit that telling these kinds of stories provides. So you can see that the efforts we put into historic resources are very, very important.

This year the construction on the two new museums I mentioned, in Cardston and in Wetaskiwin, will continue. The operating funds for Remington have been increased by a quarter of a million dollars, and we're hiring another four people to continue the work there. Reynolds has its full complement of operating staff that were included in the budget last year. It's expected that the economic impact of these two centres will be roughly two and a half million dollars annually for the Remington centre in Cardston and about four point one million dollars for the Reynolds centre in Wetaskiwin. I expect both of these centres will provide impact and benefits to the communities that people now can only imagine. I believe we will see tremendous benefits from these two facilities, and I hope that in the future, as we continue to develop our historic resources and historic sites that are sprinkled around the province, in the north, in the centre, and in the south, we'll continue to make a positive impact in our budget by expanding the base on which our province operates.

You know that tourism is one of the cornerstones of the expansion and diversification of the economy. Cultural tourism, those people who come to see cultural facilities, be they museums or art galleries or cultural events – ballet, theatre, festivals – is going to be the third major wave of tourism, following recreational tourism and business and convention tourism. We expect and we know that the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism and the government of Alberta will play a huge role in developing attractions that will bring people here from all over the world.

Of course, the other area that our department is involved in, in specific, is the area of cultural heritage or, more familiarly, multiculturalism. In this past year I've had the pleasure of receiving the report from the Multicultural Commission, which followed an extensive hearing process around the province. The report was presented in the fall of 1989, and my cabinet colleagues and I, along with the chairman of the Multicultural Commission, the MLA for Redwater-Andrew, have been working very hard to work with the directions provided by the commission to help develop some new policy direction as well as enhance the existing programs that have been in place for many, many years.

Our multiculturalism development strategy is firmly in place and is on track. We expect that the three main goals that were identified by the commission's report will be embraced by Albertans, that the focus of the work we're attempting to do and are going to be doing will continue to be in three main areas.

That is education, not in a formal sense of sitting down in a classroom education but making people aware of the benefits of a multicultural society. We know that our society is multicultural, that policies are in place that encourage individuals to come to this country and this province from all over the world, and that the base of our society is changing very rapidly. It's important that we as Albertans recognize that there is change happening today and that change will only increase in scope and in speed as we move ahead in the future years as we continue to attract immigration. So it's important that we make people aware of the benefits that accrue to this province because of our broad and diverse base of population.

I have been saying in the year or so that I've been in this portfolio that multiculturalism is for all Albertans, that multiculturalism is not necessarily the home of the ethnic group or the folk arts but is a concept that embraces each and every person in this province and is a benefit for each and every person in this province, whether they are a fourth or fifth or sixth generation Anglo-Saxon or a person from the Indian subcontinent who's been here for 15 or 20 minutes. It's a concept that embraces everyone, and there are many, many benefits to be accrued to this province because of our diverse population, not only in terms of what we bring culturally in terms of an ability to expose each other to different backgrounds and ways of life but also in our contacts, reaching out in terms of business, tourism, education, language. The list goes on and on. So I'm firmly committed to the goal of a multicultural Alberta and making sure that everybody is aware of the benefits that can accrue.

There are also some other things we must be aware of, and those are some of the changes we can expect in our society and the preparation for those. If we're aware in advance of some of the changes we might expect, we may be able to, and I hope we can, eliminate some of the bumps that we've seen along the way.

One other aspect that is very important that we address our multicultural policies to – and we have been and will continue to emphasize – is the area of institutional access. It has been true and it has been pointed out, and quite rightly, that in some cases new Canadians are unable for a number of reasons to have full access to all the things that many of us take for granted. I think this was probably the case years ago, when our forefathers arrived here. While they may have looked similar to those people who lived here, many of them had different customs, different-sounding names. When they spoke, they sounded different, be they from Glasgow or Prague or Budapest. Nevertheless, through hard work and determination and an embracing of what was here, people did integrate and they did gain access to all the things that the great province had to offer. That may not be the case now for everybody, and we're going to work very, very hard to make sure the barriers to access are broken down. Under the leadership of the Minister of Labour a task force on foreign professional credentials is working very, very hard to try to address some of the anomalies in our system where those with education from one country are unable to practise their life-long professions in this country. We want to make sure that those barriers, as an example, are removed.

The other aspect as all of this happens, of course, will be integration. We'll be a society that has fully integrated, that has everybody participating in every aspect of life as much as they wish. Of course, you can't force people to participate, and you can't force people to do things, but you can certainly make the opportunities available. That is my goal, and that is my commitment: to make available for every Albertan access to every opportunity that exists in this province. It's a key commitment

of the Multicultural Commission and certainly a key commitment of mine.

So in essence, Mr. Chairman, those are the three areas that the department focuses on: cultural development, historical development, and the multicultural area.

I could speak for a minute about Alberta as a great province for the arts. We're very, very proud of the way Albertans perform and represent this province in cultural or artistic competitions of one sort or another or in awards getting. Last year, for example, five of the seven winners in a CBC young talent contest were either from Alberta or received the bulk of their training in this province. A couple of weeks ago I had the honour of attending the Dance in Canada awards ceremony in Calgary. For the first time the awards gala was conducted outside the east. There was an excellent reason for that, because all three people who were being feted were Albertans. One of them, I'm proud to say, was a loyal employee of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism, Clive Padfield. Among the other recipients was Ruth Carse, the founder and inventor, as one person has said, of the Alberta Ballet. A strong representation of the wealth of talent that exists in Alberta and that the department is committed to nurturing and developing into some of the great talent that we see traveling the world, many of the names are familiar: Angela Cheng, a classical pianist; of course, k.d. lang, who is winning awards at a furious rate over the course of the last year, another Alberta product who received early support from the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism.

Mr. Chairman, I've spoken publicly on a number of occasions about how important culture as a concept and as a concrete thing is to our society. Many people view culture as an extra, as something that we throw money away on, as something that doesn't really have any real, important place. But I think you've seen from my remarks that it's a tremendous economic benefit from the historic, museum side. From the festival side, the Fringe in Edmonton, the Folk Music Festival, the jazz festival, the Teen Festival, and the multicultural heritage festivals here and in many centres all have a direct economic benefit. Culture itself is the basic fabric of our civilization. I spoke to young people at the opening of the Winter Games in Camrose several weeks ago, which is not just a sports event but is also cultural, as were the Olympics, as were the Summer Games. They also embrace a cultural component because it's so important to what we are as a society. I reminded the young teenage athletes there to imagine their world without culture. Imagine the walls without paintings, imagine their shelves without books, imagine your stereo dead, with no sound, imagine your television and your theatres with no film: that would be your life without culture.

So that is why I am here tonight, Mr. Chairman: to ask for the committee's indulgence in looking at these estimates and agreeing that we are continuing to do an excellent job. I'd welcome any comments, questions, and suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands.

MS BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I propose to speak for about 15 minutes on the cultural component and ask my colleague the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods to comment on the multicultural component of the minister's estimates. Before I begin my assessment of these estimates, I would like to say in one area regarding multiculturalism that while I was certainly willing to give the new minister a chance last year, give

him the benefit of the doubt, I'm sorry to say that he's been a disgrace in that component of the department for which he is responsible, given six months' worth of silence on a brewing issue with respect to RCMP members and their natural and legal entitlement to wear turbans while serving in that force. I find that the minister's silence was disgraceful and inexcusable.

I would like to spend most of my comments, Mr. Chairman, on the cultural component, and I think it is worth while to enumerate what has gone on during the last four years in this department. The minister talks a good line about supporting the arts. The minister follows a line of predecessors who have had to do nothing but cut, cut, cut in this department. The cuts not only have been ruthless but in my assessment and in the assessment of several reports, including those done for the government itself, counterproductive to the revenues of the province.

So let us just glance quickly at the general votes under 2 this year, and then I'll go back. I'll take you on a little walk through history, Mr. Chairman. Under Program Support, a cut of 20.4 percent. That may be appropriate; I don't know. The minister has alluded to some of the items therein. Visual Arts, total cut 2.5 percent. Performing Arts, cut .08 percent. Film and Literary Arts – astonishment, she says – an increase of a phenomenal 1.6 percent. Library Services, a total increase of 43 percent. But I do want to note that under the important component – that is, vote 2.5.2, Financial Assistance to libraries – the increase was only 4.5 percent. The largest increase there was for Administrative Support.

Now for the little walk through history, Mr. Chairman. Let's go to '86-87, the first year for which I was officially responsible for monitoring this department. This is after an election, I might add. Program Support, cut 5.6 percent. Visual Arts, a grand expansion of 13 percent. Performing Arts got a remarkable .8 percent increase. Film and Literary Arts that year – and this is a remarkable occasion, I might add, and I do know because I researched the issue for several years before for the Leader of the Official Opposition – 24.7 percent increase. Library Services, 13.9 percent increase. That was the good year, Mr. Chairman. You may recall that that was the year they called the election the night of the budget. As I recall, the Chairman of Committees tonight was also a sitting MLA here at that time.

The following year – this is the year of the big, ravaging cuts, not to mention a few nasty labour Bills. Program Support, cut 2.8 percent. Watch this one, Mr. Chairman: Visual Arts, cut 36.5 percent. Performing Arts, cut 12.1 percent. Film and Literary Arts, cut 5.6 percent. Library Services, cut 8.2 percent. So much for this Conservative government's commitment to the intellectual and artistic development of the province.

The history is not finished yet, Mr. Chairman. The following year, '88-89, they can smell an election close; I can tell. You just have to look at the culture estimates: minor, minor increases, just enough so that they could say, "We gave you a little more money in some areas." Program Support, increase .7 percent. Visual Arts, increase 2 percent. Performing Arts – these people don't count, one assumes – cut 6.1 percent. Film and Literary Arts, another cut, 5.8 percent. Library Services, not warranting meeting the rate of inflation, got a grand total increase of .7 percent.

And last year, Mr. Chairman. I know the minister doesn't like these facts; these are the ones that he heralded last year, this minister in particular. Program Support got a great big increase of 43 percent. So did Visual Arts. Performing Arts, cut 28.9 percent. Film and Literary Arts, cut 6.3 percent. Library

Services, the most important and, by the way, probably the most cost efficient educational tool you could possibly have, a phenomenal increase of .4 percent.

So, Mr. Minister, I ask you to account for the government that you're so proud to represent, to account for all of those cuts year after year. You've only been the minister for a year, but the fact is that if you're so proud about your government's track record, explain all of those cuts.

Now I'd like to get into a couple of specific concerns that have been brought to my attention during the last six months. One is with respect to a letter I recently received from the minister regarding the Western Board of Music, which administers music examinations in Alberta and is one of the few in the country that is prepared to actually go into rural areas. One assumes, given the comments from last night's debate about the new Premier's council – sounds like Trudeau. Every time he gets into trouble, he's got to have a new council or commission, right? Anyway, all these people said, "Oh, you people want to discriminate against rural Albertans." Well, I might suggest that by not funding the Western Board of Music beyond a one-shot \$5,000 help-you-out-maybe grant, the department is not particularly favourable towards rural Albertans whose grades for entering into fine arts programs are determined by those instructors who are willing to go around the province to administer the examinations. So where's the money, Mr. Minister?

I was absolutely appalled to see last week – or was it the week before? – the minister turning down the Northern Lights regional library system in its bid to get its regional system on board. This is the second time that's happened to this board. These people are volunteers. What they want to do is develop a system that makes efficient, and cost efficient, the acquisition of books and periodicals for circulation within a smaller district than that which they would call upon through the provincial interlibrary loan system. It made absolute sense, and as I say, it's hard to get a better bang for your buck when it comes to educating people and combating illiteracy than to fund libraries properly.

By the way, I know how much Conservatives like the libraries. I was here in '87, when the Conservatives axed the Legislature Library research component in the Legislative Assembly budget. Oh, no; they only chopped it in half that year. They killed it the next year, and they went after the library budget as well. So one appreciates the duality of the comments with respect to how much Conservatives like libraries. I don't see very many of them in the library, I might add.

In any event, now we've got even the Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism library having been cut. Now the scripts are no longer available. Nothing that's in that library is available to the public; people have to access them through the interlibrary loan system. What a wonderful thing to do. I mean, it's not like this was your big-ticket item. Good grief, this would barely pay the interest for one day on the amount that Pocklington owes us.

Redirection of funds. A total of \$113,000 was moved by order in council on March 6 from library services, cultural facilities, visual arts, performing arts to program support "to implement management restraint initiatives." This guy wants to be proud of what he's been doing? I'll tell you two things. One or the other must be true. Either he is moving this department into the basement willingly or he's being lead around by the nose by the Provincial Treasurer. As I do like to give the benefit of the doubt, I'm going to assume that it's the latter and let him clarify it.

Mr. Chairman, there is a matter that I would like to bring to the minister's attention. I have dealt with this matter with previous ministers – actually, penultimate minister – with respect to the Cochrane Ranche. It was a fight that I undertook on behalf of the people of Cochrane. There was a large amount of support for this. They didn't want the ranch located at a very specific site. I took it up with the minister. I won the issue. But it would seem that now the department is proceeding with the Cochrane Ranche, the western heritage centre, on the same site. I thought it was going to be changed. In fact, all that was changed was a small provision within the site itself. I understand that the western heritage centre has a commitment for money from the department, and I also understand, and I'd like some clarification on this, that Alberta Culture has either commissioned or is in possession of a Faculty of Environmental Design report from the University of Calgary with respect to the plans for the Cochrane Ranche, indicating that it was not desirable; in other words, implying that it was ecologically damaging in the proposed site. I'd sure like to have a look at that if the minister would provide that. I'm told from other sources that he has this information. It has not been made public.

The concern I have in this regard is that the minister should probably go into the community and talk to people and see if there is some negotiation he can do. A lot of people are very distressed at the thought of this ranch going into an environmentally, shall we say, protectable – I have been known to make up words before, Mr. Chairman – and I'm going to say protectable area, because it is very special to the people of the community. They argue that there is no reason that it could not be developed on another less ecologically sensitive site. So I'd like to hear the minister's response on that.

With respect to adult literacy in northern Alberta I recall that the provincially commissioned report released by the Northern Alberta Development Council in July of '89 made several recommendations, some of which included recommendations for this minister's department. One in particular recommended that the Alberta government provide institutions with sufficient long-term core funding for literacy programming. I would sure like to secure an update on that. As I say, I don't believe that the minister can justify all of the cuts that he is herding through the Assembly. It's very possible that he's being pushed around by that bully Dick Johnston. I wouldn't be a bit surprised. But in the event that he, himself, is directing this budget, I'd like to hear his response to that recommendation.

I'd also like to point out that the minister didn't talk about the importance of him, in particular, fighting the GST as it is intended to be imposed by the federal government. I point out that the GST will probably be the greatest single killer of artistic endeavours in the province, aside from his own successive budgets or those sponsored by his predecessors. All of the production acquisitions involved in the creation of art will be subject to the tax, Mr. Chairman. So will ticket prices, which is bound to diminish audience participation. Books, magazines, you name it, are all going to be subject to this tax.

Now, I note that the Alberta Conference for Theatre has recommended that if we have to live with this darn thing, at least to give cultural organizations a hundred percent tax credit, and fair enough. But I'm a believer that you don't start a fight by negotiating downwards; you start a fight to win. In this case I'd like to see the minister do as his brethren in the Conservative ranks have done and at least pretend to climb on the bandwagon here. They also recommend "that the federal government establish a bridge fund to help arts organizations

impacted" – I hate that word, impacted; modern language drives me crazy – anyway, "impacted by the GST in the first few years of the tax." That was a quote from them which was why I used the ridiculous word. Since when is impact a verb? Basically, I would agree with that recommendation, and I wonder if the minister is prepared to comment about his intentions to support that recommendation with his federal cronies.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a pitch for artists, in general, and the community, in general, in our province. The minister can look back through references I've made in previous years under consideration of this department's estimates to look at very detailed statistical information with respect to this community and its economic and social importance. I would point out once again that in Canada it is the only sector that can categorically, clearly state that for every dollar it is given in government grants, it returns more than one dollar in additional revenue generated for the government. For that reason alone, why can't he convince his big CA friend in the front bench that it's worth while investing in the arts in Alberta? I remind the minister that the arts grew from the 11th to the 10th largest industry in Canada two years ago. They have the highest multiplier; they create more jobs per dollar invested than any other industry; and, of course, they are economically beneficial to the general coffers when they return more than they get for any grant given to them.

In closing, I would like to make one more pitch for the development of an arts board. I figure if I'm only an opposition critic and I can deal with an advisory committee – and its membership is open, you know – surely the minister can do the same. I swear he would learn a lot, and he might have some more ammunition to bring to that chartered accountant bully who pretends to be the Provincial Treasurer.

I look forward to the minister's response and to my colleague the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods' comments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods for the balance of the time.

MR. GIBEAULT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In considering these estimates that the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism has put before us, the minister is asking us to have confidence in him with \$1381 million dollars for Heritage Development. He's also suggesting to us and to Albertans that his performance has been so good that it merits a 9 percent increase in his own office. With all due respect, Mr. Chairman, I think that would really be stretching it.

Now, I don't want you to accept my opinion of that matter, as unbiased as that is. Let's look at what some of the provincial media have been saying about the performance of this minister and see if it agrees with what this budget document is saying, that this minister deserves an increase in his office and that we should be looking at and entrusting him with any money in the heritage development area. The November 1989 edition of *Prairie Link* headline says, "Doug Main needs a multicultural education." It says:

The real question is how a man of Main's views could hold the multiculturalism portfolio . . .

Either Main is supremely insensitive, or he shares the alarming and appalling views expressed by the Reform Party.

Either way, this is not conduct becoming the province's minister of multiculturalism.

Less than a ringing endorsement, wouldn't you say, Mr. Chairman?

Let's look at the November 1, '89, edition of the *Calgary Herald*. The headline is, "Main must explain." It says:

If Doug Main agrees with a Reform party resolution condemning multiculturalism, then Alberta's minister of multiculturalism should give serious thought to other career options.

Then we have the *Edmonton Journal* in January '90. Headline says, "The courage to speak up." It says:

Nor did Main do anything to calm down the furious public debate over the use of Sikh turbans in the RCMP. So why is he in this portfolio?

The question many Albertans have asked, Mr. Chairman.

Then if we look at the March 1, 1990, edition of the *Edmonton Journal*, the headline is "Minister of sadness." It says:

Main happily ignores any opportunity to speak out for racial tolerance in this province. On the contrary, he reminds Albertans that they have a God-given right to insult minorities in any language they choose.

They conclude, Mr. Chairman, by saying:

Perhaps Main's insensitive response to the plight of minorities in Alberta is his way of pleading for a new portfolio. The next time the premier shuffles his cabinet, he should oblige his reluctant minister.

Again, this is not NDP material or opinion, Mr. Chairman. How about this? March 19, 1990 . . . [interjections]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order in the committee.

MR. GIBEAULT: March 19, 1990, edition of the *Edmonton Sun*. Now, I've seen the *Edmonton Sun* on many of these people's desks, Mr. Chairman, so it can't be an organ of the NDP. But the headline said, "Speak up." And it said:

In Main's case, the man just won't talk turban. RCMP uniform standards are a federal – not a provincial – issue, he says.

Not good enough.

Then, of course, we go to the *Mirror* in March 1990. The headline is, "Government to blame for turmoil over turbans." It says:

To the front stepped Alberta's Culture and Multiculturalism

Minister, Doug Main, who said nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would submit that that does not constitute the kind of public endorsement of this minister's record which would justify his getting an increase in his ministerial allowance for his office, or goodness help us, any public funds to be entrusted with this minister.

Let's talk a little bit about vote 4.1, the Multicultural Commission Board. Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate this minister. Let me repeat that: I want to congratulate this minister for slashing the budget of the Multicultural Commission Board. Now, probably it's because they have, thankfully, concluded their thoughts and deliberations on this piece of trash, Focus for the 90's, and as far as I'm concerned it would be fine if this minister wants to entirely wipe out item 4.1 and 4.1.1, the Multiculturalism Commission Board, from the budget. It's frankly a big waste of money, and the Provincial Treasurer, I'm sure, would appreciate saving money that's just been an entire waste. This report's been condemned. It doesn't have a single use or specific target, goal, or objective in the whole darn thing. If this minister is interested in what constitutes a worthwhile sort of report, he and his commission chairman ought to look at the action plan that came out of the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities: all kinds of targets and dates and time lines in there. I want to come back to that in just a moment.

Frankly, as far as I'm concerned, this Multicultural Commission Board, the only purpose for which we can see any benefit is to put another \$1,155 in the Member for Redwater-Andrew's pocket and give him a government car. Now, I submit that's hardly a justification, Mr. Chairman, for the expenditure of public funds, but that's the only benefit I've been able to see out of this whole exercise with the Multicultural Commission. It wasn't asked for, and it showed it doesn't listen to the people that it asked to hear from. Let's get rid of it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would submit that recommendation 10 in Focus for the 90's may have some value:

The Government of Alberta establish an annual media award for multicultural awareness and appreciation.

I want to give to the chairman of the Multicultural Commission and to the minister of multiculturalism my nomination for that award. It should go to Mr. Malcolm Mayes, an editorial cartoonist of the *Edmonton Journal*, for his contribution on March 18, 1990, which captured better than anything else I can think of the essence of this minister's performance or lack thereof in this portfolio. So for the nomination there you are Mr. Chairman of the commission.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to talk about the question of employment equity. I know it's something this minister has an ideological problem with, but this minister's own Alberta Cultural Heritage Council has recently given him the benefit of their opinion on this matter. They support this. So I want to ask this minister, who's providing some support, and I believe it's well placed support, to the Alberta Cultural Heritage Council, which represents the ethnocultural communities in a very broad way, a very representative way . . . They have most recently given him resolutions passed at their convention only weeks ago that they want action on employment equity. I want to ask this minister to defend to the Assembly and to the people of Alberta tonight why he steadfastly refuses to move on this issue.

Now, by way of contrast, Mr. Chairman, let's take a look at . . . And I want to congratulate the minister responsible for the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. I wish he could give some lessons to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. Let's take a look at the question of employment equity that came out of this action plan from the Premier's council here, and they said, recommendation 2.2, that the "Personnel Administration Office . . . develop a provincial employment equity policy by April 1991." If they're not equivocating, Mr. Chairman, they've got a definite timetable for action, none of which was present in this document, Focus for the 90's. They go on to say:

... by April 1991 that will remove barriers to employment of persons with disabilities within the Alberta Government. This policy must be developed in consultation with the various stakeholders . . .

et cetera. They then go on to say in recommendation 2.6 that: The Premier's Council has opted to take an approach to employment that encourages voluntary employment equity activities within government and publicly funded government institutions. However, if the effect of these recommendations is not significant in increasing employment rates among persons with disabilities by 1992, the Premier's Council is prepared to press for legislated employment equity at that time.

Now, why wasn't a target like that, something concrete that would mean something, that we could look back on a year or two from now, with this document for visible minorities and other people in this province who face employment barriers, and see if we've made any progress? But no, all we get is a piece of melba toast here that says:

The public and private sectors examine their employment practices to ensure all Albertans are treated equally.

What kind of a motherhood statement is that? As the Treasurer said today, that is the kind of grade 3 statement that we could expect. Now, we've got to have something much more firm and definite with timetables and targets, just like the Premier's council had in their Action Plan and which was shamefully and sadly lacking in the government's Focus for the 90's report. Mr. Chairman, that's an area that many of the people who made presentations to the commission asked for, and still this government, with those ideological blinkers, has refused to act.

Now, I want to talk on a couple of other issues here briefly. One year ago when we were discussing the estimates of this same minister and department, the minister sent me a memo. "Dearest Gerry," he says. I'm using some editorial licence here, Mr. Chairman, and you'll forgive me. It was in regards to the question we raised during the debate last year about the heritage festival in Edmonton and the participation of the Sikh community, and he says:

I neglected to mention in my closing remarks about the efforts that my Department has been undertaking in that regard, but you will be pleased to know that it was one of the first items on our agenda for action . . . I believe it may well be solved in time for the 1990's Festival.

The 1990 festival is upon us, Mr. Chairman, and I wonder if the minister will confirm that there has been no progress on that issue and that, unfortunately, we're going to miss once again an opportunity that would have given the Sikh community an opportunity to share their culture and try to heal some of the wounds that have been caused, in large part, due to this minister's refusing to take some leadership and principled stands on the issue.

I also want to point out, Mr. Chairman, that there is an ongoing need for English and a Second Language programming. While I realize that comes more directly, in terms of a budget item, under the Department of Career Development and Employment, this minister has spoken about it, and even the Focus for the 90's report's recommendation 9 referred to:

A special fund be made available to the Commission to provide incentive grants for Alberta Government departments that wish to initiate programs that increase the appreciation of multiculturalism and improve the delivery of services to all [Albertans].

What has happened with that recommendation? Is that another one that this minister has chosen to ignore? He didn't speak to it during his comments, and I'd be interested in hearing his thoughts on that. We not only need English as a Second Language to train people to be waiters and janitors, Mr. Chairman; we need professional, supervisory, and technical level English as a Second Language courses so that people can take their rightful place at all sectors of our provincial society and economy.

Mr. Chairman, I didn't hear anything from the minister about the question of heritage languages. We've got a lot of volunteers in this province who take a lot of their time on a shoestring to try to teach heritage languages to their children and their communities. Those grants have not increased for a significant period of time, and there's been no indication from the minister tonight if he's prepared to move on that. I'd like to get some kind of a response to that.

The minister also mentioned in his introductory remarks that there is some effort to move on the question of professional qualifications of foreign graduates. He referred to the Minister of Labour's task force, and since she's here, maybe she can help the minister of multiculturalism in this area and tell the House

when this task force is going to be reporting and when we'll see some concrete action to advance this particular problem that is faced by so many refugees and immigrants who come here with professional qualifications and are not able to make a contribution in their field of endeavour.

Mr. Chairman, there are so many issues in this area, but just one last one. The minister is so reluctant to comment on some of these issues, but I'd like to ask him whether or not he's prepared tonight to give the House and Albertans who are concerned about the issue of redress that affects the Ukrainian, Chinese, and Italian communities – if he's prepared to publicly endorse the Canadian Ethnocultural Council's call of just February of this year, February 23, when they called on the Canadian government to establish a formal process for addressing redress concerns. It would be interesting to know if they could count on this government's support in that area. The Civil Liberties Commission of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee, on February 23, speaking on this redress issue, said this in their press release:

Speaking for the Ukrainian Canadian community, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, research director for the Civil Liberties Commission of the [Ukrainian Canadian Committee], noted with thanks the positive positions taken by the Liberal and New Democratic Parties of Canada and expressed his regret that the government. . .

That is, the Conservative government, Mr. Chairman.

. . . was still apparently unable to formulate a clear stand on the

UCC's request, despite having had over 15 months to do so.

So I ask this minister: will he use his good offices to get after his federal colleagues to once again stop stalling on an issue that's important to many Canadians?

Mr. Chairman, I'm going to adjourn my remarks there for the time being, and I look forward to some answers from this minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Order please. Before recognizing the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, I'd like to remind the House of citation 496 in *Beauchesne*, which says:

A Member may read extracts from documents, books or other printed publications as part of a speech provided that in so doing no rule is infringed. A speech should not, however, consist only of a single long quotation, or a series of quotations joined together

by a single sentence. Now, the hon. member during a large part of his comments had a fairly lengthy string of newspaper quotations, but I think that is to be discouraged. The Chair did not interrupt at the time, but I don't think the Chair would like to see that type of thing expanded much further than the hon. member did tonight.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

MR. WICKMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism made reference to the significance of culture and multiculturalism in this province, and I agree. But I also look at it from the point of view of how significant, how high it may be in terms of priorities of this particular government. I refer to the throne speech, and we don't see any statements made in the throne speech relating to . . . The Member for Edmonton-Highlands . . . [interjections] Well, I'm trying to respond to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism.

MR. MAIN: Go ahead, Percy.

MR. WICKMAN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you first of all for giving me twice as much time as you gave the Member for Edmonton-Highlands and the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods. I just used some of it up there.

Going back to the throne speech, Mr. Chairman, there was no reference in the throne speech to the value, the recognition of culture in the province of Alberta as an enriching, vital, and life-going aspect of a way of life throughout this province. When we talk in terms of culture, I think we have to look at many aspects. We look at the so-called big performances – the Citadel, the ballet, the opera – but in addition to that . . . He just won't listen. To the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. There are a lot of other cultural activities that occur during the activities . . .

MR. GIBEAULT: Come on, Doug, pay attention to what Percy says.

MR. WICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, possibly the minister will read the *Hansard* tomorrow. In addition to those activities that I've mentioned, we take a look at a typical summer, particularly here in Edmonton and to a lesser degree in Calgary, and we can see the various activities that occur. We see Summerfest, we see the Fringe theatre, we see the Folk Festival, the Heritage Days, we see K Days, and so on. In addition to that, as our cultural activities advance in Edmonton and throughout the province, we see more and more emphasis – and it should be that way – on a lot of the more amateur-type performances or activities that aren't on the same scale as the ballet or the opera. I'm talking about the plays that are put on by the smaller theatres, such as the numbers that we see like Phoenix and so on. They're not only in Edmonton; they're spread throughout different parts of the province. We see now more and more street dancers, we see the jugglers, we see musicians playing on the streets during summer days, and I believe that all enriches our cultural life in the province of Alberta. I am very, very disappointed that in the throne speech it was not recognized to any degree. In fact, there was no reference to the contributions that is made to the province of Alberta by our cultural activities.

We have to view as more than just entertainment; we have to view culture as an investment not only in terms of the direct dollars that are generated into the economy by people that come from miles and miles away to take in things like the Fringe theatre and the Folk Festival and Heritage Days but also the investment it gives to our way of life, the richness it adds to all of our lives. Again, when we look at the throne speech and talk in terms of multiculturalism, the type of leadership that was being looked for was not demonstrated. Multiculturalism simply was not given the type of priority that it should have been given.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk in terms of multiculturalism, first of all, we have to recognize that Canada has a very unique fabric. Very often we hear these references, uncalled for, some of them very unkind, where people will say: "Well, if you go to India, if you go to Asia, or if you go to China you can't take your customs, you can't take your cultures, and you can't take your traditions over there. You have to live by their way of life." I believe that's what makes Canada so special, and Alberta is part of Canada. The fact is that when we encourage immigrants, when we encourage people to come from India, from Pakistan, from Germany, from Finland, or wherever they may come from, we don't say: "Leave your culture at home. Leave your traditions at home. Leave your religious beliefs at home." We encourage them to bring those beliefs with them, and that's what

makes us, I think, such a unique country and gives us a much greater understanding of the various cultures throughout the world. We shouldn't get ourselves led in by those numbers that I believe are in the minority that do make those statements that aren't very enhancing to our way of life.

But the impact on the ethnocultural groups, Mr. Chairman, I believe is very saddening. I think it is very difficult now for some of the ethnocultural communities, particularly those that are from the visible minorities, to even go into a shopping centre or to walk down the streets, because there are some nasty comments that are being made. Members of these visible minorities tend to look to government for some protection. They look at what's in the Constitution, they look at what's in the Individual's Rights Protection Act, and they say: "Here in Canada we are protected. We are given those freedoms. We are given the right to choose our religious beliefs." But they look for that enforcement, they look for the leadership, and that's where I believe this government has really, really failed. I say it with a great deal of sadness. I believe most if not all of us here have heritage ties that are very, very recent and that all of us, I believe, can trace. I can look at my father who was born in Finland and my wife who was born in Germany, and I've always respected their values. I believe that's very, very important, Mr. Chairman.

I would ask the minister directly: where was he when the Sikh community, for example, was encountering the difficulties they were in trying to simply get their right to observe their religious beliefs upheld? Mr. Chairman, it was silence, and it was silence that was very, very saddening not only to the Sikh community but to the other communities, because they had to visualize that if they were ever in that situation and had to look at government and ask government to be there to provide that leadership and protection, it would not be provided.

To me, Mr. Chairman, ethnocultural groups are asking for a lot more than just tolerance. I don't think any of us simply want to be tolerated. What they're asking for is understanding. They're asking for respect. They're asking for an awareness of their traditions and values. They're asking for equal opportunity, whether it applies to retraining programs or whether it applies to job opportunities. They're asking for those opportunities that the so-called Canadians, people who have been here for a much longer period of time or have been born here, feel that they're entitled to. I believe that's what multiculturalism is all about: recognition that we're all equal regardless of the colour of our skin or our cultural backgrounds, and we're entitled to the same type of benefits and the same type of freedoms that this country offers.

Mr. Chairman, when the question of the Sikhs arose at the Jasper Place Legion, again we didn't see that leadership demonstrated. We saw a great deal of silence, and we saw some statements made that it wasn't our role; it was a private club. But at the same time we saw this same government give that same facility \$30,000 under the community facilities enhancement program, which I believe is earmarked, is meant for enhancing facilities that benefit the entire community. A club that classifies itself as private I don't believe would fall in that particular category.

Reference was made to the minister, Mr. Chairman, about the report that came down from the Multicultural Commission board. I didn't see that as a very enlightening report. The comments I've gotten from within the community have not been that positive. The feedback I've gotten is that the ethnocultural communities were looking for a master plan. They were looking

for an action plan. They were looking for something they could point to and say that this is going to happen, that's going to happen, and that's going to happen; not simply a document which contains a number of statements of principle, but rather a concrete action plan, a blueprint, a master plan – call it what you want.

Mr. Chairman, when we talk in terms of multiculturalism, it's obvious we're not going to get the leadership from this government. It's obvious that this government isn't going to stand up and isn't going to defend the ethnocultural groups. The encouraging part, the very, very encouraging part to me is when I go into schools and I talk to students, particularly those students that will tour this building, grade 6 students. Then when I go to their schools later on and spend an hour, an hour and a half, with them talking about how the provincial government operates and answering their questions and such, I'll look at the classes and it's like a sea of multiculturalism. In some cases more than 50 percent of the students in that particular class are members of visible minorities. In one case I asked the students who had parents that came from other countries to raise their hands: 70 percent. And yet all those children play together; they see each other as being equal; they treat each other the same. It's unfortunate that all of us as adults cannot demonstrate that same type of compassion, that same type of understanding. It's unfortunate that we have to leave it to a much younger generation to come to grips with a problem that we should have come to grips with a long time ago and shown leadership.

Mr. Chairman, there was reference made to the library system. The library system in Alberta, by and large, has been a good system. I utilize the Southgate library a great deal myself. In the urban centres I believe up to recent years the neighbourhoods have been well served. There have been innovative programs put in place, such as the mobile book service, special programs for persons with disabilities, whether it's braille or the hearing impaired, and so on. But I have a concern in the smaller areas, and I believe that concern was demonstrated by the department's refusal to fund \$800,000 for the Northern Lights regional library system. That was a major disappointment. I believe libraries are finding themselves in a more and more difficult situation as the price of books goes up, and of course they're concerned as well with the impact of the GST.

In this province we do have some outstanding cultural facilities. I can look to the Jubilee auditoriums in both Edmonton and in Calgary, and the auditoriums do serve as a place where many, many fine activities occur. However, those activities aren't always enjoyed by all. I can recall in the early '70s, where as a person in a wheelchair I was not entitled to attend some functions at the Jubilee Auditorium here in the city of Edmonton because it was deemed I could be a hazard in case there was ever a fire and they had to exit people out very, very quickly. Times change, and society becomes a bit more enlightened, but it was during the period of time that I was an alderman. I can recall going to the Jubilee Auditorium with my son and his girlfriend, and when I went to buy three tickets, they said: "You don't pay for yours" – that's a separate problem in itself – "However, your son and his girlfriend have to sit with you in case of something occurring. They are your attendants; they have to take you out fast." I tried to point out that I was independent and that type of situation wasn't required. They insisted. If I didn't follow the rules, I wasn't allowed in the Jubilee Auditorium. That was corrected.

You would think by now, Mr. Chairman, the situation would be such that all people, regardless of their disability or whatever, could enjoy facilities like the Jubilee Auditorium, but it hasn't come to be. The minister will be aware of what I'm referring to, the letter I sent him asking for consideration for putting in an infrasound system in the two auditoriums within the cities of Edmonton and Calgary to allow the hearing impaired to enjoy those performances that are held there. The response was not at all positive. There wasn't any indication that there were dollars in the budget for that type of thing, and I don't believe there are dollars in the budget. But possibly the minister will respond to that, and possibly the minister will tell me that I'm wrong, that the systems will be put in place, and that those with hearing impairments can enjoy the performances at the auditoriums.

Mr. Chairman, I have a number of questions and a number of concerns that I would like the minister to respond to when he concludes. I can understand that the minister may not have the opportunity to respond to all of them tonight; he may not have the answers at his fingertips. But those that he can't respond to tonight, I would appreciate if I could receive correspondence further down the road addressing them.

The first one deals with the Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts. I would like the minister to advise me as to how many dollars will be provided this year from lottery revenues to that particular foundation. Mr. Chairman, I point in particular to the concern the foundation has with their declining reserve. In 1984-85 it was in the neighbourhood of \$740,000; in the last fiscal period it was less than \$200,000. In other words, their expenditures are outpacing the revenues they're receiving, and as that reserve becomes less and less, they are faced with more and more of a problem.

I would also ask the minister to look at the situation with the Alberta culture library. I'd like to know if the minister consulted with the Edmonton arts community before approving the decentralization of the Alberta culture library. My feedback from within the community is such that there was not a need to decentralize it; it was serving a useful purpose the way it was. However, if I'm wrong, I want to hear it from the minister. But more importantly, I would like to know if the Edmonton arts community was consulted.

Then there's the question of the Historical Resources Library, where we see a reduction in the budget of the Provincial Archives of 25.3 percent. Is this a method of dismantling the Historical Resources Library? Did the minister consult with the affected parties before allowing a situation where we see this type of dismantling take place?

Then, Mr. Chairman, there's the question of the Alberta Museums Association. They've received lottery funding of approximately \$700,000 a year in the past. My understanding is that they have made a new approach, that they're asking for a new level of funding. I would like to know if the minister has responded to that, if he's responded to their request for the additional funds to allow the association to administer a new grants program.

The Provincial Archives. In the 1987-1988 Auditor General's report there was a recommendation dealing with the need to improve the storage conditions and the physical control over documents and other records entrusted to the Provincial Archives. However, that situation has not been remedied, and – there's no other way to put it – Alberta's history continues to rot. When we see a reduction of 25.3 percent in this particular

budget, it's obvious that the minister is not complying with the recommendation of the Auditor General.

Then, Mr. Chairman, to the minister, there's the question of the Writers and Publishers Advisory Committee. That was a committee that was in place, but because of dissatisfaction with the way they were communicating with the minister's office, because of the feeling on their part that they weren't being given the mechanism to provide the input, and because there were four vacancies on that board that were not filled, the other six simply resigned. That body, to my understanding, is no longer in place. I would like to know what the minister's intention is. Is it to leave it sit out in limbo, or does the minister intend to bring that body back to life? If the body isn't brought back to life, what type of mechanism is used to fill that particular void?

There are a few other questions I have of the minister, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know if the minister has had any discussions with the Minister of Health regarding the question of foreign doctors. I raise this at this particular time because of the multicultural aspect of this particular situation where these doctors have come to Canada expecting equal opportunity. I think it's clearly documented, it's clearly pointed out that that equal opportunity hasn't been provided. I'd like the minister to respond to that.

I'd also like the minister to respond to the question as to whether he's had any discussions with the Attorney General on the possibility of taking legal action against the distributor of offensive pins, calendars, and other types of materials. We've seen the pins that have been on display in the past, and there have been some more drafted up, Mr. Chairman. Unless this government finds a way of dealing with that problem, we're going to see the situation inflamed and we're going to see more and more of this type of material that simply promotes a degree of hatred and promotes a lack of understanding of other people's cultures flourish throughout this province. I don't think it's right, quite frankly, that some people attempt to make money at the expense of others, while diminishing other people, while casting hate upon other people, and government sits back and chooses to do nothing about it.

I'd like to know if the minister has made any attempt to sit down with the Sikh community, with the East Indian community, and the heritage festival board to try and resolve the problem that is reoccurring again about the pavilion that has not been allowed for the Sikh community at the heritage festival. I'd like to know if the minister has looked at the possibility of trying to encourage the heritage festival, for example, to have maybe three or four pavilions or tents that are classified more as not just cultural but also having a religious aspect. There are a couple out of the 49 at the present time, but basically I'd like to know if the minister has attempted to resolve that problem.

I'd also like to know if the minister, Mr. Chairman, has discussed with the Heritage Days association – if he's responded to material that has been sent to the Premier, which I assume has been sent to the minister, expressing concern about the impact of Family Day on the heritage festival. The impact on the heritage festival is simply that of the number of people that got Family Day off who will now be required to work the Heritage Day holiday in August. So, of course, that's where there's an impact, and there's a concern there about the attendance. I'd like to know if the minister has attempted to deal with that problem or to communicate or to discuss it with the heritage festival.

I'd like to know if there has been an analysis done within the department as to the financial impact of the GST not only on

the library system but also on the many groups, the many festivals that sell tickets. I imagine that cost is going to be horrendous, and I would expect, I would assume there has been some calculation done and some consideration or some review given as to what impact it may have on the number of people attending and just the overall impact on cultural activities.

Another area, Mr. Chairman, that I feel the minister should respond to. There had been discussion last year about the possibility of a Bill coming forward from the Minister of Municipal Affairs addressing the problem of taxes on the cultural centres. I'd like to know if the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism has communicated with the Minister of Municipal Affairs to deal with that Bill and as to when that Bill is going to come forward, and if in fact that Bill is going to resolve the problem.

Mr. Chairman, as I wind down here, I want to just ask some specific questions that relate to the program expenditures. When we look at vote 2, Cultural Development; 2.1, Program Support: a reduction of 20.4 percent. I'd like to know why there's a reduction of 20.4 percent and the impact it's going to have in the areas that are affected: the field services, the visual arts, workshop development, and so on and so forth. Also when we look at Performing Arts, we see a significant reduction under 23.5, Board Development: a reduction of 13.7 percent. Under Library Services -I spoke earlier on the need to support library services, and I maintain there is a need to support the library services throughout the province. But I see an increase of 16.4 percent in the Administrative Support; that's under 2.5.1. I'd like to know again: why is it that it always seems to be that the administrative end of things is increased significantly, substantially, while at the same time the programs that people benefit by, the services people benefit by, seem to be reduced?

Also, Mr. Chairman, when I look at the Alberta Library Board, I see an increase of 43.2 percent - that's under 2.5.4 - but yet last year that same program had a reduction of 36.4 percent. So it has basically come back pretty close to the same level it was two years ago. That indicates to me that the department realized there was an error created previously in reducing it, so they've increased it to counteract it, or else there's something else there that indicates there's some instability or some uncertainty as to how that particular program operates or functions.

When we look at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, 2.6.1, and the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, 2.6.2, under Cultural Facilities, in Edmonton we see a 9 percent increase, which is fine for us here, I guess, in Edmonton; our neighbour Calgary, the big city to the south, has a reduction of 2.4 percent. Now I just assume there is an explanation for that, and I expect it's a reasonable explanation.

I look under 3.1, Management and Operations; 3.1.1, Program Support: a 23 percent reduction. Why? Provincial Archives, 3.13: 253 . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's time has expired.

The hon. Member for Redwater-Andrew.

MR. ZARUSKY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed it's a pleasure to speak to the budget estimates of Culture and Multiculturalism today. As the minister outlined it, it's a very good budget. It covers all areas, whether it be in libraries or other areas that are covered under this department.

Today I'm going to speak mainly on multiculturalism because it's a part of the department that I'm responsible for as the

chairman of the Multicultural Commission, working very closely with the minister on issues.

MR. MOORE: That's the one the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods referred to.

MR. ZARUSKY: Well, we'll get to him later. He probably needs some lessons in multiculturalism, but we'll try to teach him tonight.

Anyway, as I was saying, it's a pleasure to work with the minister, because I think since last July we've had a very good working relationship. Between meetings and consultations on many matters, I think we have got everything under control, and I know we're going in the right direction. People are satisfied in this province, and I know the minister is doing a super job in all areas of his department. Besides, whatever articles the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods came up with, I think he omitted all the positive ones that are out there.

MR. GIBEAULT: Couldn't find any.

MR. MOORE: He's always been lost.

MR. ZARUSKY: So I think, Mr. Chairman, he's probably looking in the wrong places, but he's never been a positive person to begin with, so as I go on, we'll deal with him.

As I said, I think this department is following this government's direction in fiscal responsibility and stewardship and working towards a balanced budget for '91-92. Some of the cuts were outlined. I know they were in areas which I don't think will hurt the average person. In multiculturalism I know we're going to retain all the programs that are out there plus add some more, because the cuts came, as the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods said, in the commission board's budget. As fiscal managers and people that are responsible for this province, we can live with those, because we're just going to trim our travel and other areas, and I know that we will have the money for the programs that are needed out there. So the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods need not worry about that; we've got that under control.

It's been a busy year in the Multicultural Commission. We've been extremely busy since last summer and the spring before, when the commission went around the province on Interchange '88 and gathered information, submissions from Albertans on what they'd like to see multiculturalism as in this province for the next decade and beyond.

As time went on, the commission members put a report together called Multiculturalism Focus for the 90's. This report, let me tell you, Mr. Chairman, was put together by commission members. There were times there were no politicians involved because there was a period where there was no chairman - during the election campaign and shortly after the election - so it was the commission members that did it. Their names are in this fine report, and I think credit should be given publicly to these people; that is, Angela Iliadis, who was the vice-chairman at the time; Jack O'Neill, the deputy minister who was the secretary, Adolf Kulpe, a member from Medicine Hat; Laurent Lamoureux from McLennan, also a member; and Orest Olineck, a member of the commission and now the vice-chairman of the commission and also chairman of the heritage council. So I think these are the people that put it together, along with the former chairman, now the Minister of Family and Social

Services, who did go on Interchange '88. I think these people should be congratulated for the fine job they did.

When I got appointed as chairman, we were working towards the finalizing of this report, so I had some input on the forming of it and the way we put it in, and I think it is a fine report. When the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods mentioned that this is trash, well, let me tell you, Mr. Chairman: this report, as I said, was put together from submissions from the people by the members appointed to this commission because of their knowledge of multiculturalism and their wisdom to help. They spent many hours of their precious time away from their families, working for the people of this province. I think it should go on record that the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods has said that it is trash, obviously insinuating that they don't know what they're talking about. So that's going to be on record, and I think every Albertan should know about it.

The next thing about this report is that it was put together by submissions from Albertans, the average person, people that are in this room, probably, or in this House, and from all walks of life, whether it be institutions or multicultural groups. They were the people, and to insult people the way the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods did I think is a disgrace. For an elected member to insult people is just a disgrace, and that shouldn't be tolerated. So I think Albertans know – they've heard it loud and clear – and I think we're going to make people aware of this.

As I went along and I listened to the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods speak, all of a sudden he pulled out these drawings and a picture that he sent over here and other articles. And, to our staff from the department and from the Multicultural Commission who are here, I think I figured out what his problem is. We're going to change this report just for him. In one copy we're going to draw pictures, so he can look at the pictures and then maybe he can interpret them, because he reads off pictures. So, Mr. Chairman, to the staff: I think one copy, just pictures, for the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods. I think that way he will understand it.

I can tell you that we've got letters, stacks of letters, indicating that this report is the right way to go. It doesn't point out any point in a specific way which ties it down just to one area. It gives some flexibility to implement these programs; we've got 10 recommendations there. The hon. minister has mentioned the three areas we are working in already. As time goes on, we're going to incorporate the others, and as I speak tonight, I think I'll point out some areas that are being worked on right now. The same thing to the hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud; I think he's also mentioned that this report has no specifics. Well, to implement programs in multiculturalism, you need some flexibility, because times do change and you have work with areas as they come into focus. So I think this is the way it was left. The three areas of public awareness, education, and institutional access are in there. We are working in those areas already, and as I said, as I go on I will naturally touch on most of those.

Another area that the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods seems to have many problems with is the position of chairman of the Multicultural Commission. I think he's afraid that somebody gets paid a little extra for the hundreds of hours of extra work a person does. If he ever was on it – but I know he never will be in that position, because the NDP will never make the government. Another thing I can outline to the hon. member is that it seems the vehicle gives him a lot of problems. I don't know if he owns one or not, but spring is coming; you could use your bicycle, and you shouldn't have any problems.

But, Mr. Chairman, if in fact he needs a vehicle, I probably have nearly a dozen or so registered vehicles that are licensed to be on the highways in this province, and maybe I can lend him one. Since I care for people – I am a caring person – I could also help him out a little bit. Anyway, I don't think he should have any problems with that, because there are a lot of vehicles in this province, and we do have to drive.

As I go on, Mr. Chairman, I think I want to touch on some of the areas that we have worked on with the Multicultural Commission. We've had meetings after the report was released. We met, I'm sure, with 40-plus groups in this province; I've maybe attended 40, 50 meetings since October with different multicultural groups, with institutions, and with different ethnic communities. Anyplace we go, people are very positive. They see that this government is going in the right direction. They see results. These are some of the areas we have worked in, but again to the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, I don't think he can read, and he doesn't know where we've been. I think from now on – to the staff – maybe we're going to send him a report every time we do some of this so he wouldn't go out there with this negative attitude all the time, stirring people up and just causing a lot of the problems that are out there.

Anyway, Mr. Chairman, as I said, I'm going to outline some of the areas we've been in. We are working towards a positive attitude. As the minister has said many times, and I can say it again, intolerance and prejudice are definitely wrong and have no place in the Canadian multicultural society. These are statements that are coming out all the time from the minister and also from myself. So we have to work towards this area; we are, and things are happening.

As we go on, as I've outlined in the report that's out there, we are working in areas – we've been traveling. We are going to be meeting with more people and working towards what the people of this province want. Second, there's going to be some legislation coming in this session in regard to mainly the multiculturalism Act. One area we are going to be working on in the legislation will be doubling the size of the commission. We're going to put more members on there so we would have the right input.

MR. GIBEAULT: Are they all white?

MR. ZARUSKY: Well, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods is again discriminating, not thinking that members who are on a commission should be on there for their ability, not their colour or race. We can't put everybody on there, but it's people from all parts of the province that are on there for their ability, and that's the only way we can operate.

The next area we are working on is, again, the streamlining and reporting from the grass roots out there to the commission and on to the minister. We are going to be changing the structure of the heritage council. It will be an advisory council which will be probably a smaller body of people, maybe 20 to 30 individuals, again reporting to the commission, and the vice-chairman of the commission will be the chairman of the advisory council. So you can see another area which will be streamlined, and reporting will be done.

Another area which we've done a lot of work on, and I'm sure you can see a lot of different names, is the commission staff. We've undergone changes and again brought people in that are qualified to deal with the multicultural needs of this province, to work for this decade and beyond.

Another area which has been recognized in the report, Mr. Chairman, is the area of consultation with the rural communities. This side of the House, this government caucus knows what it's like to be in urban and rural areas, whereas the opposition I don't think has that opportunity because they don't seem to ever be out in rural Alberta, and don't know what it's all about. To them, just city and urban is where it happens; there's nothing beyond there. So as a rural MLA and chairman of the commission, I know what the differences are between urban and rural areas.

MR. PASHAK: What's the second most spoken language in Calgary-Forest Lawn?

MR. ZARUSKY: Well, they might have their own. We haven't gone that far.

Anyway, these are some of the areas in this province we are going to be working on, and we've got some ideas that we're going to touch on. I think the minister has probably announced there's going to be a symposium to work on an action plan, to meet with different community people out of institutions, out of municipalities, again to work in the three areas of strategy, and those are awareness, access, and integration.

As we go on, there are many other areas which we have plans for as time goes on and we fit them in. Another area we are working on already is an Alberta people series, and this will be work with the film and publishing industries to develop educational programs on the ongoing contributions of Alberta's people. As the minister has mentioned and I think even some of the other members that have spoken, this province is diverse. It's made up of people from many ethnocultural backgrounds, and that's why it's such a strong province. Strong people and a strong society have built it to what it is. We're superior to anybody else in Canada and maybe the world, and it's because of good, strong people and electing a good, strong government all the time.

Another area we are working on is to work with ethnocultural communities to develop multicultural ambassadors. I think the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, if he got more of a positive attitude toward life, could probably be one of these ambassadors. But maybe I'll have to sit down with him for a while and teach him some of this. As I've said, many members of the opposition, not only the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods but many others, I think could get a lesson from the chairman and the minister on what multiculturalism is and how well it actually is working in this province. Just be a little more positive.

Another area we are working on is our Alberta youth. I think the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud put it so well, that we have to start with our young people. They're going to be the future of this province, and I'm sure they are going to live in harmony with each other and fit in and bring our province together and make it much stronger.

One thing I want to mention is that recently I spoke to a group of students at the Muttart Conservatory on International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the world, and it was a tree planting ceremony. When I spoke to these young children, I asked them what their definition of multiculturalism was. They couldn't answer it at the time, but what I told them to do was write letters to me, every one of them, on their definition. Let me tell you, every one of them did reply. They wrote the letter with their definition of multiculturalism. I think we're going to be using a lot of those directions; those

young children had the right idea. I think we should bring them in here, and maybe they could speak to the opposition . . .

MR. PASHAK: What's your definition?

MR. ZARUSKY: . . . and also mention to them what it is.

Hon. Member for Calgary-Forest Lawn, it's in this book. I hope you've read it, and if you didn't . . . Maybe we could get him a picture book too.

So I guess another area we will be working on is developing partnerships, and that's developing partnerships with business and industry and government departments. We'll be working that through our multicultural development centre out of Calgary, which has these services. We are teaching management to deal with multiculturalism in the workplace and health care facilities and municipal institutions.

Another area we are working on right now is, again, building awareness. We're going to be taking multiculturalism on the road to every part of this province. We're going to stop at trade fairs, summer festivals in rural Alberta, Heritage Days, and actually have displays where people can come and see, ask questions, participate, and get information. These are some of the areas we're on, which somehow isn't getting out there, so we have to put these in action.

Other areas that are being worked on are seminars and workshops. I know I've spoken to many in Calgary and Edmonton, whether they be with police departments, with interpreters, and with all sorts of institutions. One area which we have worked on and done a lot of work in is with the Misericordia hospital in an awareness study to see the needs of the multicultural community in hospitals. We've given the Misericordia a grant of \$15,000 to do a study on these needs. They'll be reporting back to us, and hopefully other institutions will be working on it.

Just a few closing comments here, Mr. Chairman. Again, these are some of the things that are being worked on. We're working very closely with the minister, and multiculturalism is alive and well. We do print a lot of information. I think the hon. members of the opposition should be getting this one. This one's got a lot of pictures in it, so I think it will work. So, hon. members, if you're not informed, I think our staff is up here once more; we're going to take your names down and send you all these beautiful picture books.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity, and I think the minister will be responding to some of the other concerns.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member for Calgary-Forest Lawn

MR. PASHAK: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Well, I think the previous speaker really has the situation reversed. What the people in the cities need is some understanding on the part of Conservative backbenchers as to what the real ethnic situation is in our cities.

I'd like to begin by saying – and I don't want any misunderstanding on this point – I do support the concept of multiculturalism; I always have. But I have some problems with it. That's why I asked the previous speaker if he even had a definition of multiculturalism, because I think many of the problems associated with multiculturalism stem from the fact that many Canadians don't really have an appreciation of the concept. We don't have a shared understanding of the term. Part of the reason for that has to do with the way multiculturalism came upon the Canadian scene. It wasn't something

that came out of a real need by different groups to have some kind of expression that would result in constitutional law and that sort of thing. In a way it was a reaction to bilingualism.

If you look at the Constitution of Canada, it's pretty clear that Canada was historically a bilingual nation, but a lot of groups couldn't accept that. A way of getting around that difficulty was that some politicians promoted something called multiculturalism. And there are some good components to that; I'm not denying it. But unfortunately what's happened with the implementation of multiculturalism is that it has often become a convenient tool for politicians to gather votes. Instead of trying to address the real needs of new Canadians and older Canadians in Canadian society, it often becomes a technique or a device for trying to woo ethnic leaders. In wooing those leaders, providing those leaders with money to provide song and dance kinds of things or cultural halls, there's often a hope that those leaders will mobilize the votes of their communities to support the politicians who have made those grants available.

In saying that, I think policies of that kind have really been shortsighted and have caused a lot of long-term problems for all Canadians. We see that erupting in Canadian society from one end of the country to the other. We get this backlash against Sikhs being allowed to wear turbans as RCMP officers. We get ethnic violence in some of our major Canadian cities. We get the isolation of ethnic groups and the ghettoization of these groups within communities even here in some of our larger cities in Alberta.

I'd just like to say that here in the province of Alberta the city of Calgary is probably the third most ethnic city in the whole country after Toronto and Vancouver, I would assume, in terms of its diversity. To give you some idea of the real situation, the real multicultural condition that exists in this country, I'd like to describe my own constituency. I would hope that the rural members would begin to get some appreciation of what multiculturalism really is and where it's at through this description. My constituency is perhaps the most ethnic of all constituencies in this province. The second most spoken language in Calgary-Forest Lawn is Chinese. After that there are large numbers of people who speak Hindi, who speak Urdu, who speak Arabic. There's a large Spanish-speaking population in the constituency. In fact, the smallest of all the recognizable ethnic groups in my constituency happens to be French Canadians.

There are some problems that are beginning to develop, because that population is superimposed on a European population that moved into this area of the city after the end of the Second World War, when we accepted a lot of people who were displaced from Europe as a result of the conflict that went on during those years. So the basic groups of people who existed there were German, Dutch, eastern Europeans, Italian groups, and when we introduced multicultural policies, we kind of reached out to those groups. We tried to say, "Look, we're going to provide you people with some money so you can maintain a kind of identity, maintain your roots." I support that. I think those initiatives weren't bad. But now we've got a situation where we've got all kinds of new cultural refugees coming into this country. They experience real difficulties, because the ability to assimilate those people into our culture is far more difficult than it was to assimilate the older Europeans that came into the country. The Europeans were more like the existing Anglo-Saxons and French-speaking people who inhabited this country, because they shared common cultural values and beliefs. Their language structures were somewhat similar, so it was easier for them to learn new languages. But

if you're Chinese speaking or Arabic speaking, it takes years and years to begin to develop a facility in English. We don't even provide the kind of help that's really necessary to help people learn English as a second language. In our schools the maximum amount of help new Canadians in these categories get is three years; then funding is cut off. There has to be much more money pumped into the schools to help new Canadians learn English, because without that they can't fit into the ongoing community life. What we've been doing in these communities, on the other hand, is providing money to these groups so they're able to somehow segregate themselves from the ongoing communities, and what you're beginning to get are conflicts.

Now, in the early grades in school – and I visited many of these schools – you can see an intermingling of young people. They play together in the school yards. The young people find it easier to learn English, and there's a sharing. But by the time these kids begin to get into junior high school, other processes are at work and these kids begin to separate out into gangs. There have been tremendous conflicts breaking out in some of the junior high schools between members of various ethnic groups. Unless we begin to really address this problem in some serious ongoing way, my prediction is that in the future, and not too far down the road, we're going to have some serious outbreaks of violence in all our Canadian cities. We're going to put more money into policing to protect the public in these situations. I think that right now is the time. If we could devote more resources to dealing with the real problems these groups have, then I think we'd go a long way toward promoting the kind of understanding and tolerance that I associate at least with the concept of multiculturalism.

What can we do? Well, one of the things we should stop doing is funding groups so they can be different. I'm not suggesting that we should not help these groups . . . [some applause] Well, thank you, hon. Member for Lacombe. I'm not suggesting for one moment that we don't help new Canadians settle into Canadian life, and one of the best means of doing that is to allow them to function in their ethnocultural groups and support that kind of activity. But at a certain point in time that emphasis has to be balanced against encouraging new Canadians to begin to participate in the ongoing community activities that exist within our society and our culture. That means making more opportunities available, maybe even for young people to play common games like soccer rather than hockey and funding things like that. Invite older people, older new Canadians that need English as a second language into your community halls so you have programs on a second language that take place there. At least you've got the immigrants out of their homes and you're bringing them into community halls where they can meet other people.

If you're trying to really promote tolerance and understanding and get people working together, you don't do it by taking a traveling road show around the province and saying, "Look at all the good programs we're running, and this is what we believe." You get that kind of tolerance and understanding by putting people together to work on common projects so they begin to learn to relate to each other and to recognize that if they have common problems in communities such as maybe getting new parks and the rest of it and they work together, that's how you begin to build the bridges and begin to produce a society that is truly tolerant and full of understanding.

Anyway, just some ideas for the minister. I would hope he begins to perhaps shift the direction his department has been going over the years. When opportunities are there to create

new programs, they should be aimed to some extent at helping new Canadians acquire better language skills, helping new Canadians know what their rights are, helping new Canadians have more equality of opportunity when it comes to looking for jobs, helping new Canadians understand what their rights are as Canadian citizens so they no longer feel like they're victimized, as they did in many of the countries they previously came from. I think if we begin to move in that direction, we'll find that we'll have what it is we all want, which is more tolerance, understanding, and just a better society in which we co-operate more than compete with each other.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism.

MR. MAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the input I've had over the last, it seems like, four or five days here from the various members of the opposition and, of course, the excellent comments of my colleague from Redwater-Andrew about culture and multiculturalism. I'll attempt to go through them in some semblance of order to try to address the concerns that were raised by some of the members.

There are so many areas that I could focus and touch on. The Member for Edmonton-Highlands is, of course, the master of the argument based on no facts, a selective memory – really, an amazing ability to make arguments that are based on innuendo and a lack of facts. Of course, not having information and not being willing to listen to facts that are presented to her, that's not too surprising. But in actual fact, as she outlined the litany of alleged horrible things that have happened over the last five or six years, focusing on this cut of a tiny percentage and that cut of a certain percentage and this cut of that many dollars, what she failed to notice and failed to take into account are the actual results, the things that have actually been happening in terms of the government's commitment to arts and culture over the last number of years.

We only have to look back barely a year ago to the huge effort undertaken by this government to pay off the deficits of the performing arts organizations in this province. There was a huge commitment of lottery dollars to pay off the deficits and to reward the good management of a few groups in the order of \$11 million or \$12 million in total. That enhanced the level of support not only to the big-eight professional organizations that operate in Edmonton and Calgary, but there were additional funds in my budget last year to bring the smaller professional organizations up to the same level. But, of course, the Member for Edmonton-Highlands chooses to ignore that.

In fact, what happened over the course of years that the Member for Edmonton-Highlands outlined and went through her long list of cuts . . . During the period of time, I think it's important that we look at the results of exactly what has happened here because of the hard work of the staff and the experts of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism and the generosity of Albertans who make our Lottery Fund a profitable venture, those two working together over the last five years: in actual fact support dollars in the hands of arts organizations, performing arts groups, and culture generally. Dollars in the hands have actually doubled during the period of time the member discussed – not cuts.

We now have more professional arts groups; we have more amateur arts groups. There are more municipal libraries, more library systems, in more brand-new buildings during this period of time. We have more Alberta writers earning a substantial

portion of their income from writing during this time. There are now more publishing companies issuing more books than ever before; the sales of books are up. We've got more art galleries. All of this happened during the period of time '83-84 that the Member for Edmonton-Highlands describes as a nuclear wasteland of arts funds cutting. Well, if it's so bad, how can it be that all these things happened? I think the record stands for itself and speaks for itself, Mr. Chairman.

I was at a social event the other night with the chairman of a renowned Canadian arts organization. I won't mention his name in public, because I don't want to embarrass him. If I said his name and said the organization, you'd know it. But in his conversation with me – and I'll tell you who he is later in private – he said to me: "We could use more money, sure, but couldn't everybody. But the support of this government for the arts, for theatre, is the best of any government in Canada." This individual speaks to people across the land about support and shares stories about how they're doing, and his quote to me, unsolicited, was, "The support of this government is the best of any government in Canada when it comes to the arts."

Now, let's go back to some of the other facts the Member for Edmonton-Highlands talked about – and a couple of people have raised the northeast library. I'll just go back over the situation. There has been a commitment by this government to balance the budget. We've had to make some hard decisions. The decision made on the northeast library system was that given the current budget climate, it is not fair to take away from existing organizations, libraries and systems, to start something new. The member said that this is the second time they've been turned down. That's not true. That is at variance with the facts. They have not been turned down at all. In fact, the board and the system will be established. The board is going to be established. The only element missing is the hard cash. The Member for Edmonton-Whitemud correctly identified the number; it's something in the order of \$800,000, not an insignificant amount of money. Now, if the member is suggesting we take \$800,000 away from all the existing libraries, then I'm sure she'd want to hear from all the members and my colleagues who have libraries in their towns and find them so important.

Unfortunately – and I agree – it's a disappointment. It was a disappointment to me when I went to Lloydminster and met face to face with the board and the many volunteers, who'd worked so long and hard, to have to tell them that we weren't going to be able to give them money this year. But I made the commitment here, and I repeated it tonight and I'll repeat it again, that when we find the new money, they'll get the new library system. I think that should be clear.

The member talked about the Western Heritage Centre on the Cochrane Ranch site. I will discuss it for a few minutes, although it's not a budgetary item. It does not appear in the budget anywhere; it's a nonbudgetary item. But I just want to remark on the arrogance of the Member for Edmonton-Highlands, who presumes to speak for the people of Cochrane and bring their concerns to the Legislature. The MLA from Banff-Cochrane is a fine spokesman for the people of Cochrane, in fact worked very hard with my department and officials in my department and the community in Cochrane to make sure the Western Heritage Centre is located on the ranch in a place that has wide, broad-based support. If the Member for Edmonton-Highlands wants to speak for the people in Cochrane, I suggest she resign her seat and run there next time and see if she has an opportunity to represent the people in Cochrane. I would be amazed.

The Western Board of Music was mentioned by the member, and I'll touch on that briefly. We have provided grants of \$5,000 for each of the last two years. We also have provided grants of \$3,800 a year for scholarships for a long number of years. Over the last 18 months the performing arts branch of the department has been working with the western board to help with their restructuring and the sorting out of some of their administrative and financial difficulties. But they are strong; they are healthy. They will be around, and they will continue to serve Canadians and Albertans for many years to come.

I have another note on the Cochrane Ranche. Somebody asked about the Cochrane Ranche environmental . . .

MS BARRETT: I did.

MR. MAIN: You did. Well, that was an exercise done by a student at the University of Calgary, so I'm sure they'd be glad to let you have it. [interjections] You can write your own joke there.

The Member for Edmonton-Highlands and a couple of others touched on the GST, and I want to say I do concur with you. I think the GST is going to be devastating for the arts community: charges on tickets, on senior rentals. There's a question: if a theatre company, for example, is hiring its performers on contract, is that a service they're buying? Is there a tax on that? I feel the GST is going to be devastating for the arts, as it is going to be for the entire country. Of course, our Provincial Treasurer and our Premier have led the fight in the nation, despite what some members of the New Democrats would have you believe – again, a variance with the facts. We've led the fight against the GST. It's going to be devastating in every aspect of our society, and of course we're concerned as it affects the arts, because it will have a dramatic impact on operating costs and, unfortunately, perhaps operating deficits. It may, in fact, sound the death knell for some of our very, very valuable arts groups.

AN HON. MEMBER: That's Tories for you.

MS BARRETT: Yeah. Conservatives for you.

MR. MAIN: Well, aren't you glad we're there fighting for Albertans to keep it out of this country? I'm really glad.

MS BARRETT: Where were you in '88? Where were you?

MR. MAIN: Where was I in '88? I was fighting the . . .

MS BARRETT: You were running Reform; that's what you were doing. Jeez.

MR. MAIN: So soon you forget. I fought against the GST there as well, Pam.

Moving on now to the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods. He was very nice. Last year when we went through this exercise, of course, the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods in fact didn't give a speech or give any ideas; he went through submissions to the Multicultural Commission hearings and read from them. This year there are no hearings, but there were some newspaper articles, so he read from them. Now, next year I'm sure he'll be hunting around for something else to read from so he can make other exciting points on his own written by the editorial staff of the *Edmonton Journal* or wherever.

The Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods did not read a couple of recent articles. And I'm not going get into a newspaper war here, you know, where I'll compare my articles to your articles, but let it be said that the position taken by the government, by myself, on the issues that the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods raised in fact was a position taken of attempting to not draw attention to the bent notions of a few who give expression to misunderstandings through pins, calendars, bumper stickers, and all the rest. The attempt was not to focus on those kinds of things. That was the best advice we had from the Human Rights Commission and from other leaders in the community. Do not give credibility to these items. They do not reflect the broad feelings of Albertans; they are the rantings of a few.

Rantings indeed, because day after day the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods stood in his place and screamed "racist" at – who knows? I don't know if he was screaming "racist" at Albertans who asked questions. But the question, "What's going on in my country; what's going on here?" is not a racist question. It's just a question of what's going on here. But the member wanted action. He wanted somebody to say something. He wanted court action; he referred to it again tonight. He wanted somebody to stand on a rooftop with a bullhorn and shout "racist" back. He kept the issue alive and burning, and regretably my efforts to continue to downplay the situation were read by some as trying to dodge the issue. I'm not dodging the issue; I never did. I did speak out on 25 or 30 different occasions in all four major daily newspapers. I spoke out on national television on two different occasions. I spoke out on national radio. I spoke out on a local television broadcast. And I answered every media question on this issue that was put to me. However, the myth persisted, and the member read some of the carrying-on of the myths in the paper there, that I hadn't said anything. But I said it many times. I'll say it again. The government condemns the pins. The government condemns the calendars. We have no place in Alberta for these kinds of expressions. That was said by me, the Premier, the Minister of Labour, the Human Rights Commission, again and again and again and again. And I've said it again tonight. Let's put it to rest.

Mr. Chairman, I've got a few other questions that the member raised. He talked about employment equity. That's not a budget item in my estimates. We are working in the whole range of multicultural issues, and access to institutions and opportunities is, of course, a concern of ours. The specific question that the member raised through the personnel administration office I'm sure he may want to address during estimates of the Department of Labour.

He questioned the heritage festival and what is going on. Mr. Chairman, I can tell members this. As I said recently, this is something we've been working on virtually since the day I came into office. We've been working very, very hard with members of the Sikh Federation, not the World Sikh Organization. I think it's important to point out the difference. We've been working with the Sikh Federation of Edmonton, with the Council of India Societies, and with the heritage festival to come to a solution to the question that has been plaguing the heritage festival here in Edmonton for a long time. Members of my staff meet on a regular basis with all parties concerned. I have corresponded with the chairman and spoken on the telephone with the chairman. I have been working with the office of the mayor. I have been working with all parties concerned here,

hoping to bring an amicable, reasonable, gentlemen's solution to this question.

But the final decision rests not with me. The decision rests with the participants. The decision rests with the Council of India Societies, the Sikh Federation, and with the Edmonton Heritage Days Festival, not with me. But it's my intent to urge the groups involved to come to an amicable settlement that will foster harmony and understanding and allow all aspects of our society the opportunity to give expression and to benefit from the Heritage Days Festival. I hope to be able in a very short period of time to announce that our quiet, behind-the-scenes diplomacy that we've been engaging in for the last year has paid dividends. Because that is what we've been doing: working very closely with all members concerned to bring about a reasonable, amicable settlement to the question, not storming in, not issuing demands, not placing guns to the heads of folks and demanding that they comply with someone's wishes but urging them to work together. Because that's what our society is about. That's what we do here; we urge folks to work together. That's what multiculturalism is: urging folks to work together for the betterment of all, not isolating each other. And we've been doing that.

Mr. Chairman, a couple of other questions. I think that just about does it for the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods. Last year he asked quite a few questions and read quite a few articles, and he read a few articles today and didn't ask very many questions. I think I can answer some of the questions, though, raised by the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, who had a long list of questions that he wanted answered. I'll attempt to go through them, but there are quite a few. It's important that we get these answers on the record.

Some of the questions were asked by others, but I will answer these questions. The budget for the Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts is \$1.325 million a year in lottery funds. The demand on those lottery funds has been steadily increasing over time. As I indicated, there's been such growth in our literary areas. The licence is coming up for renewal in '91, and I expect the increased demand will be reflected in allocations given to this very, very important area.

A lot of questions tonight about the culture department's library, and the Member for Edmonton-Highlands indicates that somehow we've taken this library away and hidden it, and nobody can get at it. Not the case. It has changed locations. If decentralizing means moving from 104th Avenue by city hall to the west end, I don't know what the concern is. The plays and play scripts that were available are still available. It requires a phone call. They're still available across the province through interlibrary loans. We have not restricted access to them. If anybody needs a play, if a school drama department needs copies of a play, they are still available.

Historical resources library is still available to the people who use it. Were they consulted? Of course they were. The people who use it are the professionals in my department. That's what the library's there for, to help them in their work developing historic sites. The history books that members of the public are interested in seeing are still available, as they always have been.

The question about the Museums Association. It's in the same boat as funding for AFLA. The lottery licences and the lottery funding made available are renewed about a year from now, and their submission will be considered along with all the others in their '91 funding.

With regard to the archives the Auditor General did mention that the archives were in need of some work. Unfortunately,

we're unable to allocate capital to the major project this year, but we have acquired better shelving, a better storage system. We're moving to better quarters in some of the temporary storage that we have. The budget allocation that's caused some concern, a reduction of some 25 percent, in fact is not directly reflected in the archives operation but is more of a book entry reflecting a transfer of library operational dollars from the archives entry to the Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, where the actual museum library is, exactly.

The member asked about the Writers and Publishers Advisory Committee. This was set up a number of years ago to help previous ministers in their work, for example, in establishing some of the guidelines for AFLA. The committee was operating in a situation where the major groups it represented had developed their own systems of reporting and lobbying on access to the minister: the Writers' Guild, the book publishers association. That role plus the reporting role through the Foundation for the Literary Arts left us with a situation in which the WPAC was not really required, and the budget requirement we felt we could allocate better elsewhere. Voluntarily the group decided that it would resign and step down.

Have I consulted with the Minister of Health on the foreign doctors question? Yes, I have and will continue to do so.

Let me just refer to the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods again, because he'll want to hear this. Have I consulted, have I discussed with the Attorney General the possibility of prosecuting distributors of pins? Well, we discussed it, and we've taken the only responsible position, which is no. If you'll get together with the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods – and he'll give you his newspaper file with all his clippings that he carries around with him everywhere he goes – he'll show you an article that quotes a Mr. Hipson from Calgary on the notion that perhaps there will be prosecution. He says: I'd love them to prosecute; it would only make me richer. Now, if that's what the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud wants, page after page of front-line publicity for these bent pin notions . . . I don't think so. That's the position we took long ago, that we would not actively promote and give credibility to the pins. So that should be your answer for the Attorney General.

Municipal Affairs, re taxes: I'm sure the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods will see the plans the government has and the plans the Minister of Municipal Affairs has when the item appears on the Order Paper.

We can go to some of the detailed program elements. Most of what the member cited in the various detailed budget elements and sub-elements that he was talking about, most of those cuts reflect administrative savings in program support – the administration, the people who move the paper, the people who answer the phones and direct the administration of the programs – not the programs themselves. We've tried to effect our cost savings and our commitment to balancing the budget through tightening up and making more efficiencies in administration. Travel and hosting have been cut by a large measure. You see some of that reflected in the board development budget.

We have introduced efficiencies in many, many areas. The anomalies, for example, in the Jubilee auditoria come from expenditures on electronic data processing equipment being purchased in one area that was not purchased in another. The two operate as separate facilities, and they certainly do not march in identical lockstep. So the delivery of services has not been affected by any of the minute budget cuts. In actual fact, administrative and personnel efficiencies are responsible there.

You asked about the hearing-impaired situation at the Jubilee Auditorium. We do have a plan that calls for redevelopment of the entire auditorium interior. We would like very much to incorporate a great number of advantages for not only our hearing-impaired but other physically impaired individuals. Of course, as we work through this redevelopment plan, we'll be working very closely with the Premier's council on the disabled to ensure that any redevelopment work includes the suggestions that you've made. We're going to look at every conceivable option to make sure that these cultural facilities are available to all Albertans. I thank you for your concern and interest there.

The Member for Calgary-Forest Lawn also entered the debate. I was glad to hear that he did because it gives me an opportunity to repeat to the House the things that I have been saying for the last year that have not been reported and that have not been able to be clipped by the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods. This is stuff that I've been saying for a year. Of course everybody knows what it's like, and I know what it's like, having been in the business for a long time: the fact that an airplane landed safely at the airport today rarely makes the evening news. So when you get out and you say some positive things and you make some suggestions and you talk positively with folks, that normally doesn't get in. But if your ideas don't jive with an editorial writer or you don't respond instantly to the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods when he wants you to call somebody a racist, then of course you do get editorials written about you.

Let me just let members know what I've been saying about multiculturalism for the past year. This is what I've been saying. I've been saying that ESL, English as a Second Language, is a key ingredient in any strategy to bring new people to Alberta. We have to co-ordinate our activities and efforts and delivery of ESL. We do that. It's an ongoing process. It's co-ordinated in three or four different departments where responsibility or impact lies. Advanced Education covers it in the adult area. The Department of Education covers it in the K to 12 area. Career Development and Employment covers ESL in delivering workplace enhancement. And my department gets all the complaints. So we're all involved in this, and we all work together to make sure that those things are delivered carefully.

Funding is critical. I've said that it's time for a change in our multicultural direction. That's what the report of the Multicultural Commission suggested as well. It's time for a focus for the '90s, suggesting that we've been doing this and we got to this point but let's go down the road this way. I've been saying that for the last 12 months. We've turned the corner into a new time, a new era. We've spent a lot of time, effort, and money emphasizing ethnicity, emphasizing differences, and now let's all work together to emphasize the good points, emphasize what we all, all Albertans, gather from multiculturalism. It's time to emphasize the benefits for all and for all of us to work to make those benefits available to all. It's time for groups and organizations that are not working towards unity and integration and participation to stop expecting government handouts. These are things that I've been saying for the last year. Nobody's heard this because it never gets reported. Mr. Gibeault never comes to anything that I'm at, because he's off doing whatever . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. MAIN: Mr. Mill Woods, the Edmonton-Mill Woods individual there.

AN HON. MEMBER: He's giving away loonies.

MR. MAIN: Yeah, he's too busy doing that.

I have told individuals, I have spoken at . . . Maybe he was at one organization. He could testify to this or could confirm this. I spoke at a celebration for a major ethnocultural group – two, as a matter of fact, one in Calgary, one here. In both instances I encouraged the participants not to view this day as an opportunity to bring their mothers and fathers and brothers together to listen to a cultural program but to use it as an opportunity to invite their next-door neighbours, their bosses, their co-workers, the person from across the lane, or somebody completely different to experience the culture. I also encouraged them not to go back to their homes and do nothing about getting out into the community the next day but to get involved in the PTA, get involved coaching the hockey team, talk to your neighbours, talk to your friends, and get involved and participate. That's what I've been saying for the last year, exactly what the Member for Calgary-Forest Lawn is advocating that we should be doing. I don't know where he's been for the last year, but he hasn't been where I've been, because this is what we have been talking about.

Mr. Chairman, I think we've gone through some of these questions. I hope I've touched on them all. If I have missed in any way some intimate details that members are anxious to hear more about, I would be more than glad to answer them. As for that, I'll just look once more through all of this paper and make sure. Yes, I have answered everything, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee rise and report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Having heard the motion of the hon. Government House Leader, does the committee agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Opposed? Carried.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MR. SCHUMACHER: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Culture and Multiculturalism, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: Having heard the report, do the members agree?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Opposed? Carried. Thank you.

MR. HORSMAN: Mr. Speaker, as I advised the Assembly at 5:30, it would be proposed to deal with Committee of Supply tomorrow afternoon with Occupational Health and Safety, Workers' Compensation Board.

[At 10:26 p.m. the House adjourned to Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.]

